newsprint from FINNPAP in October, 1991 at a FOB rate of $609 PMT, with option to purchase an additional quantity of 5000 MTs.

(ii) On 30 Dec., 1991, STC decided to exercise the option for purchase of this additional quantity of 5000 MTs from FINNPAP at the FOB rate of $609 PMT.

(iii) On the basis of a complaint received in January, 1992 that the international price was lower than $609 PMT FOB, the STC had advised the Supplier, FINNPAP not to go ahead with the production till such time they hear from STC in the matter.

(iv) STC is now seeking legal opinion before cancelling the contract for purchase of the additional 5000 MTs optional quantity.

Backing out from Commitments by Russians

44. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russians are backing out from their commitments and many goods promised by former Soviet Russia found their way to hard currency areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with successor States of Soviet Union;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) No, Sir. No formal indication has been given by Russia regarding not honouring commitments given by the erstwhile Soviet Union. There was, however, a shortfall in the supply of goods in 1991 due to various factors including the political changes in the erstwhile Soviet Union. The Government are fully seized of the matter and are making efforts to finalise separate trade agreements with the newly independent Republics. Agreements with the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan have already been signed.

Bungling by STC in Import of Newsprint

45. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Times of India of 13th February, 1992 captioned 'Newsprint import case Belgium seizes SCI vessel wherein it has been stated that Shipping Corporation of India vessel has been seized as a consequence of bungling by STC in newsprint import case;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident;

(c) what is the amount of loss likely to be suffered by India; and

(d) what are the details of action, if any, taken by Government against the STC officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) STC had imported some quantity of newsprint from M/s. Meteor Paper Ltd., London which was delivered through SCI. Due to a dispute in regard to declaration of the origin of material, manufacturer's certificate etc., STC did not release the payment to the supplier. On filing of a claim by the supplier against SCI for the value of cargo, one vessel of SCI was arrested at Antwerp (Belgium) on 12.2.92. The arrested vessel has since been got released by SCI on an indemnity bond.

(c) and (d) The matter is being investigated.

निर्यातकों को सुविधाएं और नई निर्यात नीति

46. **डा० अबरार अहमद:**
चौधरी हरि सिंह:

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) निर्यात में कृषि के लिए इस समय सरकार द्वारा निर्यातकों को कौन-कौन सी सुविधाएं दी जा रही हैं और निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए सरकार द्वारा घोषित विभिन्न योजनाओं और नई निर्यात नीति के अब तक क्या परिणाम निकले हैं;